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ADDRESS TO THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
(S.A. CHAPTER) BY THE PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA,
DON DUNSTAN, Q.C., M.P.

7th August, 1970.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN -

IT GIVES ME QUITE CONSIDERABLE PLEASURE TONIGHT TO SPEAK TO YOU IN THE COURSE OF PROPOSING A TOAST TO THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CHAPTER OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS.

AND I THINK IT IS ALSO MOST APPROPRIATE. WE ARE, IN AN EXTENDED SENSE, COLLEAGUES.

THAT IS NOT TO SAY THAT YOU ARE ELECTED TO THE DRAWING BOARD IN THE WAY I AM TO THE FRONT BENCH - BUT IT IS TO SAY THAT, AS PREMIER AND AS MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA, I AM INVOLVED DAILY WITH THE DIRECTION AND

PAGE 2.

IMPLEMENTATION OF PLANNING CONCEPTS WITH WHICH ARCHITECTS ARE VERY CLOSELY INVOLVED AND OF WHICH THEY HAVE AN OVERRIDING AND ENTIRELY NECESSARY CONCERN. IN THIS SENSE THE ARCHITECT IS AS CLOSE TO THE POLITICIAN AS EVER THE LAWYER IS. THE LAWYER IS CONCERNED WITH THE LAWS POLITICIANS MAKE - THE ARCHITECT IS CONCERNED WITH THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT THE POLITICIAN CONTROLS.

IT IS THEREFORE PERHAPS A PITY THAT WE SEE SO FEW ARCHITECTS IN PARLIAMENT. AS A PROFESSION IT IS CLEARLY UNREPRESENTED.

FROM MY POINT OF VIEW, I BELIEVE THAT THE ARCHITECTS ROLE IN THE MODERN COMMUNITY IS ONE OF VITAL AND OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE. AND I SAY THAT ADVISEDLY - I WISH TO MAKE MY ATTITUDE TO THE PROFESSION KNOWN.

FOR THE ARCHITECT'S JOB IN THE MODERN WORLD IS INFINITELY MORE COMPLEX AND DEMANDING THAN EVER BEFORE. IT IS UPON HIM THAT WE ARE DEPENDENT FOR NOT ONLY BUILDINGS THAT EFFICIENTLY PERFORM THEIR VARIOUS AND OFTEN HIGHLY SPECIALIZED FUNCTIONS, BUT ALSO FOR A VISUAL AESTHETIC ENVIRONMENT THAT BOTH PLEASES THE EYE AND REFRESHES THE SPIRIT. WITHIN THE RANKS OF YOUR PROFESSION STAND A NATION'S AND AN EPOCH'S GREAT PUBLIC ARTISTS. YOUR ROLE IN SOCIETY HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN HONOURABLE ONE - IT IS IN 1970 A VITAL ONE.

AND IT IS VITAL BECAUSE IN AN ERA OF RAPID TECHNOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL CHANGE, OUR SOCIETY MUST HAVE PLANNERS, DESIGNERS, AND BUILDERS OF SUFFICIENT INVENTIVENESS TO COPE WITH THE NOVEL DEMANDS BEING MADE UPON THEM. AND FOR THE ARCHITECT, THE DEMANDS ARE GREATER IN SCOPE THAN EVER BEFORE.

NOT ONLY ARE YOU REQUIRED TO MAKE USE OF ENTIRELY NEW MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUES IN DESIGNING BUILDINGS TO COPE WITH ENTIRELY NEW FUNCTIONS - BUT YOU ARE ALSO REQUIRED TO BEAR IN MIND AT THE SAME TIME THE LIFE AND DESIRES OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY IN THE ENVIRONMENT YOU ARE SO RADICALLY CHANGING. AND WITH THIS COMES YOUR CLOSE INVOLVEMENT WITH SOCIOLOGICAL ISSUES - THE QUALITY OF URBAN LIFE, THE DEMANDS OF SUBURBAN DEVELOPMENT, THE NATURE OF LARGE PUBLIC ACTIVITIES WHETHER THEY BE SPORTING, SHOPPING, RECREATIONAL OR CULTURAL. THE ARCHITECT'S INTERESTS TODAY RANGE OUT FROM HIS BUILDING INTO SOCIETY AS A WHOLE.

MY GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ELECTED WITH A CLEAR POLICY ON THESE MATTERS, AND FOLLOWING ON FROM THEM IT IS NOW IN THE PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTING PLANNING PROCEDURES DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT THE BEST POSSIBLE PLANNING AND DESIGN STANDARDS OBTAIN IN THIS STATE.

AND WITH THESE THE ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION WILL BE CLOSELY INVOLVED.

THE PROGRAMME IS IMMENSE. WE WISH IT TO TOUCH ON EVERY ASPECT OF LIFE IN THIS STATE - INDUSTRIAL, SOCIAL (INCLUDING OF COURSE HOUSING) CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL. FOR INSTANCE, WITH HOUSING THERE IS WE KNOW A GREAT FUND OF COMMON KNOWLEDGE AVAILABLE NOW CONCERNING THE KINDS OF DEVELOPMENT A CITY LIKE ADELAIDE SHOULD HAVE. WE KNOW THE DESIGN DISABILITIES OF THE STANDARD SUBURBAN SUB-DIVISIONAL DEVELOPMENT. WE KNOW THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT, EVEN THOUGH THE ANSWERS TO THEM ARE STILL BEING FOUND. WE KNOW THAT FOR A WIDE VARIETY OF SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL REASONS IT IS DESIRABLE FOR EVERY CITY TO HAVE A MUCH HIGHER RESIDENTIAL DENSITY IN INNER AREAS THAN ADELAIDE HAS.

AND WE KNOW THAT AS PLANNERS AND DESIGNERS A MUCH GREATER VARIETY OF CHOICE IN HOUSING SHOULD BE AVAILABLE - PEOPLE SHOULD NOT BE FORCED INTO SUBURBAN LIVING IF THEY DO NOT WANT THAT KIND OF LIFE.

AND IN THIS, AS A GOVERNMENT WE HAVE FIRM PROPOSALS. WE INTEND TO PROCEED WITH SUCH REDEVELOPMENT SCHEMES AS THAT PLANNED FOR HACKNEY. WE INTEND TO ENCOURAGE THE REDEVELOPMENT OF INNER-CITY AREAS, ESPECIALLY THE SOUTH AND SOUTH EASTERN SECTIONS OF ADELAIDE ITSELF. AND WE INTEND TO SET OUT, IN PLANNING SCHEMES REDEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES THAT WILL BE ATTRACTIVE TO PRIVATE DEVELOPERS AND ARCHITECTURAL PLANNERS.

IN ADDITION, WE WISH TO ESTABLISH A POLICY WHICH ENSURES THAT REGULATIONS GOVERNING BUILDING IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA ARE AUSTRALIA'S MOST ADVANCED, AND WE HOPE THAT FROM THIS WILL FLOW A VARIETY OF BENEFITS.

WE WOULD HOPE - AND WILL ENCOURAGE - THAT MANUFACTURERS OF NEW BUILDING MATERIALS, FITTINGS AND SYSTEMS SET UP THEIR AUSTRALIAN BASE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA. AND WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA AS A BUILDING INDUSTRY RESEARCH, TEST AND EDUCATION CENTER.

BUT IN ALL THESE THINGS WE EARNESTLY DESIRE AND SEEK THE HELP AND ADVICE OF THE PROFESSION MOST SIGNALLY INVOLVED IN RAISING DESIGN, BUILDING AND TOWN-PLANNING STANDARDS - AND THAT IS YOUR PROFESSION, GENTLEMEN. AS A GOVERNMENT, WE SEE THE ROLE OF, FOR INSTANCE, THE HOUSING TRUST AS ONE WHICH SHOULD LEAD AUSTRALIA IN THE PROVISION OF MODERN HOUSING ESTATES AND ADVANCED AND IMAGINATIVE INNER-CITY DEVELOPMENT. IT SHOULD BE THE TRUST'S JOB TO SET STANDARDS THAT WOULD BE

SO ADVANCED AND DESIRABLE THAT OTHER DEVELOPERS WOULD EITHER JOIN WITH IT OR TAKE OVER THE LEAD. AND IN SETTING THIS UP, IT IS UPON THE ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION THAT WE WILL DEPEND FOR GUIDANCE. IT IS NOT THE POLICY OF MY GOVERNMENT TO STIFLE NEW FORMS OF DEVELOPMENT IN THIS CITY - ON THE CONTRARY IT IS OUR POLICY TO END WHAT SOME ARCHITECTS HAVE FOUND TO BE AN EXCESSIVELY RIGID BUREAUCRATIC INTERFERENCE WITH DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. BUT TO DO THIS WE MUST HAVE THE BEST POSSIBLE COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSION AS A BODY AND WITH ITS INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS. I TRUST THAT WE WILL ACHIEVE THIS IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

GENTLEMEN, I BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE IMPORTANT CHANGES ABOUT TO OCCUR IN THIS STATE WITH WHICH YOU WILL BE VITALLY CONCERNED AND CLOSELY INVOLVED. I THEREFORE PROPOSE THIS TOAST TO THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CHAPTER OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS AND THE PROFESSION IT REPRESENTS.